Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 026390 61 ORIGIN AF-06 INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OPR-01 SY-04 /087 R DRAFTED BY AF/P:JALINEHAN:MR APPROVED BY AF:AMB. MULCAHY NEA/P:GSHERMAN (SUBS) EUR/P:BALLEN (SUBS) IO:FBLACHLY ----- 042627 O R 052114Z FEB 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY ROME USMISSION USUN NEW YORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 026390 E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: PFOR, ET, US SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON EVACUATION 1. FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR SPOKESMAN FEB. 5. NO QUESTIONS ON ERITREA OR ETHIOPIA ASKED AT FEB. 4 NOON BRIEFING: 2. Q. HAS THE EVACUATION OF AMERICANS FROM ASMARA BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 02 STATE 026390 COMPLETED?

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A. A TOTAL OF 120 AMERICANS, INCLUDING ALL DEPENDENTS OF USG PERSONNEL, WERE EVACUATED FROM ASMARA FEBRUARY 4. SUBSTANTIVE NUMBERS OF BRITISH AND CANADIANS WERE EVACUATED AT THE SAME TIME.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US HOW MANY AMERICANS REMAIN IN ASMARA?

A. OVER 100 AMERICANS REMAIN IN ASMARA MOST OF WHOM (97) ARE USG EMPLOYEES OR CONTRACT PERSONNEL. WE ARE TRYING TO OBTAIN AN EXACT COUNT.

Q. DO YOU PLAN TO EVACUATE THEM?

A. NO DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN AT THIS TIME TO EVACUATE.

FOR BACKGROUND ONLY:

NO NEW FIGHTING REPORTED WITHIN ASMARA BUT THE ELECTRICITY AND WATER SYSTEMS REMAIN OUT OF COMMISSION. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN ADDIS ABABA IS SENDING REINFORCEMENTS TO ASMARA. KISSINGER

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